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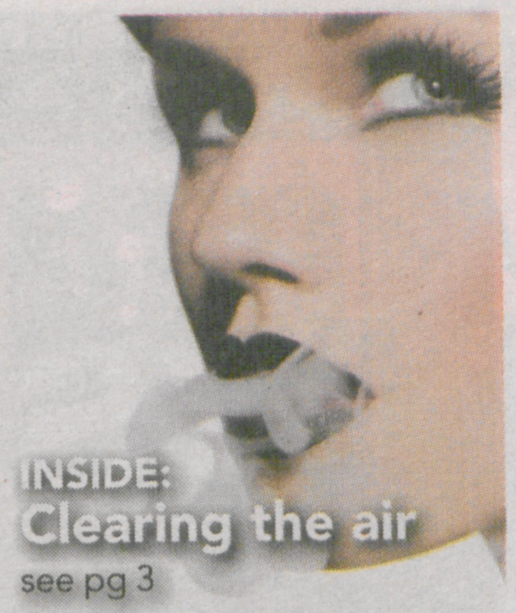

INSIDE:
Clearing the air
see pg 3

FREE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Obama Talks, McCain Balks

By Mark Segal
Gay History Project

In this election season, the Gay History Project and Central Voice brought you information on the election. In this story the format for both candidates – Obama and McCain - was to be the same: the same questions, with no follow-up questions and the same time limit. And since April, the GHP has repeatedly reached out to Republican Sen. John McCain's press representative Jill Hazelbaker by phone, letter and e-mail.

Once it became clear that McCain would not participate, Sen. Barack Obama's campaign put no conditions on the interview. Obama spoke to Mark Segal by phone. Here's what he had to say.

"...treat all people equally regardless of sexual orientation."

MARK SEGAL: You are the most LGBT-friendly candidate running for president in history. Are you concerned that John McCain and the Republicans might use this as a divisive issue as they did in 2004?

BARACK OBAMA: No. I think they can try but I don't think it will work for a couple of reasons. Number one, I think that the American peoples' attitudes with respect to LGBT issues are continuing to evolve. I think people are becoming more and more aware of the need to treat all people equally regardless of sexual orientation. There are some people who disagree with that, but frankly those folks — many of them — probably have already made their minds up about this election earlier.

MS: You've talked about your many gay friends. Would you and Michelle be comfortable attending their commitment ceremony?

BO: We would. But I'll be honest with you that, these days, I can't go anywhere.

MS: The current President Bush has used signing orders to change military rules and regulations. If White House counsel advised you that you could end "Don't

Continued on page 22 >

Harrisburg represents the second highest number of HIV infections outside of Philadelphia.

HIV Alive & Well in Region

By Frank Pizzoli

Revised CDC estimates show specifically men who have sex with men, African Americans, and Hispanics and Latinos continue to be most heavily infected. The term "men who have sex with men" or MSM includes "out" gays, "closet" gays, men married to women who have disclosed or undisclosed sex with men, "in" or "out" bisexual men. In terms of race and ethnicity, black men and women face the most severe rates of HIV infection at 46% of new infections, followed by Hispanic and Latino men and women or 15% of new infections.

Young men who have sex with men are of particular concern, especially young black men. New data says young black men ages 13-29 who are having sex with other men account for 52% of new infections among all black men.

Public health advocates stress that poverty, limited educational opportunities, gender inequities, homophobia for all gay men regardless of color, HIV stigma and inadequate health access help to drive higher rates of HIV infection.

Harrisburg represents the second highest number of HIV infections outside of Philadelphia.

Last July under the organizing banner "Universal Action Now," 25,000 delegates discussed 7,800 medical abstracts during the largest and most diverse gathering of HIV experts and activists ever assembled, The XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.

Central Voice checked in with AIDS Community Alliance, the region's largest provider of HIV services, to compare the conference findings to central Pennsylvania. ACA

Continued on page 22 >

Stradnycki Honored

see p. 20

Hate Prevention Fund Intro'd

see p. 21

CLUB XS

Wednesday, November 26th

- Only $5 Cover Charge
- Drink specials all night long
- Bingo will be held earlier (see our web site)

Thanksgiving Eve Dance Party!

FEATURING DJ SETH GOLD

Be sure to check our web site for details on our upcoming New Years Eve celebration!

Christopher Peterson
Special Christmas Show

- Show starts at 10 PM
- Tickets on sale soon!
- Dance floor open immeadiately afterwards

Saturday, December 20th

CLUB XS

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Dine Out South Central PA

Steve Weiland and Positive Opportunities, Inc. board member Yvonne Small participated in Dine Out.

Dan Parsons, and Positive Opportunities, Inc board members Don Dupes and Jack Pizzoli enjoyed Dine Out.

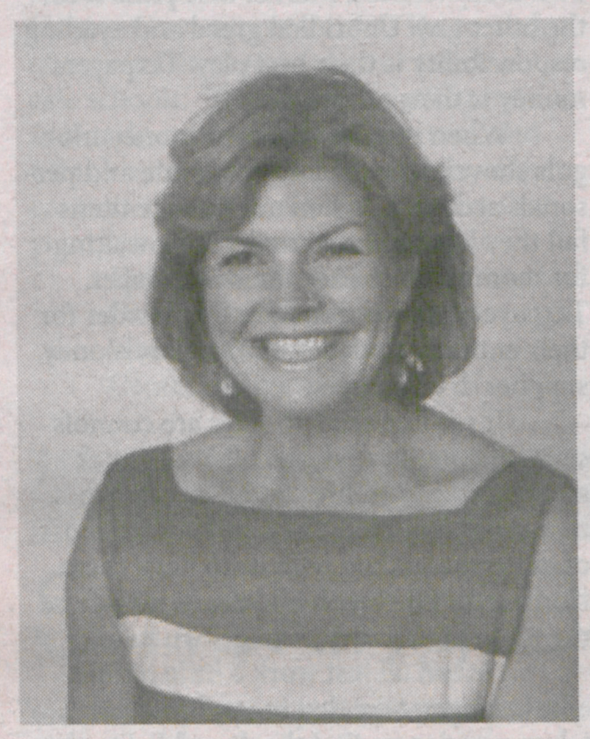
Taj Palace, Harrisburg owner and family joined their diners at AIDS Community Alliance's annual Dine Out.

Taj Palace wait staff Tony Fernandes and Terenze Rebello provided excellent service.

PawsAbility

Dressed to Impress – Even the dogs dressed to the nines at Black Tie & Tails, Keystone Human Services' annual fund raiser benefiting Susquehanna Service Dogs held Oct. 19. On the left is Jill Morrow, Morrow Farrar Jewelers, and best friend "Olivia." On the right, a happy party goer. The next event to benefit SSD is PawsAbility March 14 & 15 at the Farm Show Complex. Details: www.keystonehumanservices.org

find more community voice on page 5



Harrisburg Symphony Hires Three

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra recently hired Debra M. Tocks as Finance Manager, Casey Segen as Director of Marketing and Community Affairs, and Anne Schwab as Director of Education & Office Manager.

Tocks holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a major in Accounting, from Shippensburg University. Her previous positions include CFO, Pennsylvania Newspaper Association and Vice President, Administrative Services for The Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania. Tocks is a CPA, a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She volunteers at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen, the Nature Conversancy, and the Caring Community of St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church.

Segen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Susquehanna University. Prior to HSO, Segen served as the Advertising Supervisor for Harrah's Operating Company in Atlantic City, NJ. She also was an Adjunct Instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College. She currently serves on the Graphic Design Advisory Board for HACC. Segen also owns Dimension Graphics, Jonestown, where she manages more than 40 clients including Morey's Piers Amusement Parks and Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse.

Schwab holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA and is a graduate of The New York Restaurant School with an emphasis in Culinary Arts and Management. Prior to joining the Harrisburg Symphony, she served as the Director of Christian Education for Market Square Presbyterian Church, Owner of Alice Anne's Kitchen and as a Field Consultant for Subway of Central PA.

Clearing the Air on Smoking Ban

"All workers deserve to work in a healthy environment," says Joy Blankley Meyer, executive director, PA Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT), a statewide tobacco control coalition dedicated to strengthening tobacco control legislation in the state.

Meyer's sentiment reflects a voice that says Pennsylvania advocates may not be finished with tobacco reforms with recent passage of the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act.

"By establishing legislation that protects all workers health, we can ensure that no one needs to choose an unhealthy environment to work," Meyer says. She's referring to the several exceptions included in the PA Clean Indoor Air Act. Some bars, casinos, and private clubs may be exempt in various ways.

"The intent of the legislation was to protect all workers from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke exposure. Any legislative action that would strengthen the law would be a step toward protecting more of Pennsylvania's workforce from secondhand smoke exposure," Meyers points out.

What about banning all public smoking?

"Currently, there is no proposed legislation prohibiting smoking outdoors," Meyers says. Some local municipalities have passed ordinances prohibiting smoking in

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Central to your life.

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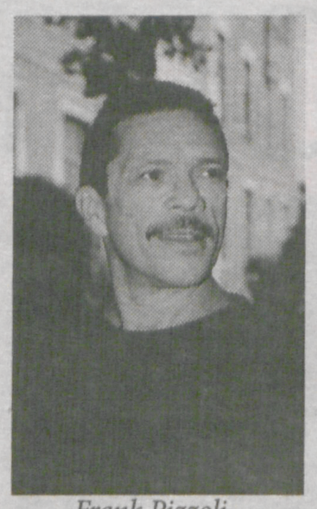
publisher's note

Market Discipline Is for the Other Guy


Frank Pizzoli

As a child, Ralph Nader's father would ask him," Why will capitalism always survive?" His answer: "Because socialism will always be used to save it."

So it is with Goldman Sachs socialism and the siren sounds of greedy Wall Street weasels. They honk on about the virtues of the marketplace but remain steadfastly unwilling to suffer the consequences of their own lousy choices. Market discipline is for the other guy. Unbridled greed and evading responsibility is their best play. Taxpayers' money is their salvation.

When rewards flow our money moguls shovel deposits into corporate and personals accounts. When our finance titans fail they whine like a cranky baby waiting for mommy to change their wet diaper. Taxpayers' money provides the powder for their entitled, chafed bottoms. Our money supplies dry Pampers.

These financial phonies are connoisseurs of complicated deals that can suck away smoke from fires and distort images in any fiscal mirror. They are the Houdini's of evasion,pleading with us to hoist them from tanks filled with bad decisions before the waters burst forth and drown us all.

We can all just work a little harder, a little longer, take that second or third job to pay down what they've added to the national debt. Meanwhile, they jettison on to their next financial travesty. But then let's not forget that anything government does business can do better. Like bail out greedy losers? Like take responsibility for its actions?

This will surprise readers. I like what Lou Dobbs and Newt Gingrich commented on the bailout. Dobbs called it correctly: The sky is not falling, there is time for reasoned debate, and why isn't the public being listened to? Gingrich said short-circuiting serious Congressional oversight over an enormous transfer of taxpayer dollars to an industry is "un-American."

I also believe that 25 years of Reagan inspired "anti-regulation" got us into this current mess. What good are regulations? After all, no capitalist ever had to be forced into doing the right thing like not hiring children or making men work 15 hours a day or selling mortgages over and over so many times they became less than junk. Sweat shops were nice places to work.

Both political parties – consumed themselves by greed for special interest money - have betrayed the principles of a true free market. Under Adam Smith's invisible hand no market player could unilaterally set price. Making "junk" of every deal is our modern day version of what he meant.

Anyone who has bothered to look knows that Senator John McCain was deeply involved in the push for rampant deregulation, and his choice of former Senate Banking Committee Chairman Phil Gramm, the principal author of the decisive deregulation legislation, to co-chair the McCain presidential campaign mocks McCain's attempt to blame the crisis on everyone but himself. Democrats are also culpable. The final steps to crumbling walls between investment banks and consumer banks occurred under Bill Clinton. He helped create an overexcited home purchasers' market.

While a business editor in the late 1980s, I wrote about the looming, and complete, deregulation of the banking industry. What sources feared most has played out. Any one interested in more deregulation?

If you are a conservative Republican, how is our current housing circus a "family value?" If you are a Democrat, can we accept that our own most recent, and hugely popular, president helped pave the way for our banking disaster?

Is there no way for a creative, thriving people to come together to rethink our personal and business ethics? Here's some suggestions:

1. Taxpayers should get participation for bailing out Wall Street, ideally in the form of stock warrants.

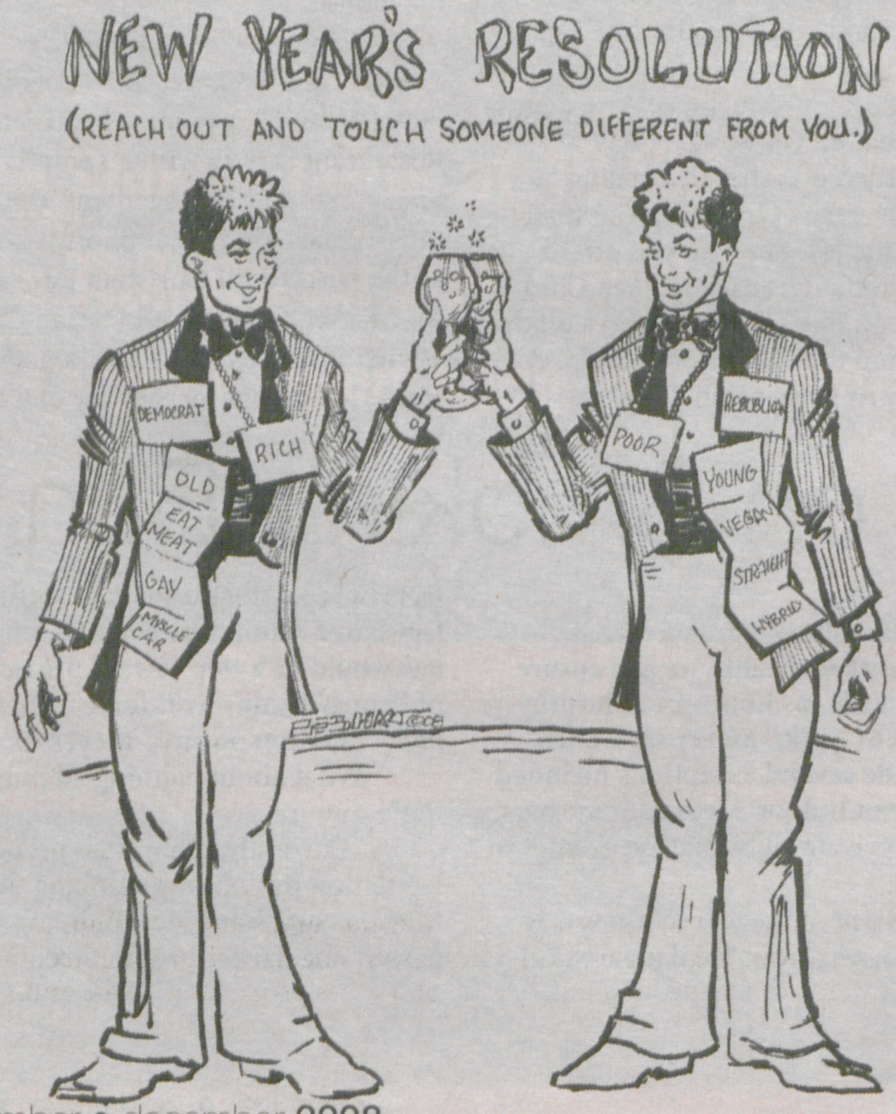
2. Homeowners and neighborhoods could be protected by passing a law with a sunset clause allowing below-median-value homeowners facing foreclosure the right to rent-to-own their homes at fair-market-value rates.

3. Conflicts of interest must be reduced by taking away the power of auditor and credit-rating-agency selection from companies and placing it in the hands of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to be administered on random assignment. And then the SEC must be forced to act when needed.

4. Accountability must be restored to financial markets by introducing covered bonds for the majority of mortgage products as they do in Western Europe, which prevents originators of mortgages from passing the buck.

5. We need restraints on Wall Street's dangerous habit of gambling with other people's money. This should start with a securities-speculation tax and effective margin requirements to refocus the financial markets on their proper function.

Send us your suggestions at posops@aol.com.



voice box

"Awesome! All Americans should have there health needs met by the government. My sister lives in Brazil and has full wonderful health care. France, Denmark are the same. If we are such a rich county why isn't our government taking care of us! It sickens me writes Andrea Hamill in response to the Central Voice Exclusive remarks by Obama deputy campaign manager Steve Hildebrand: "Senators Obama and Biden recognize that health care in America needs to be fixed. An Obama Administration will be fully committed to addressing the health care needs of all Americans, including the lgbt community."

Dwayne Magee says: "This morning I read the article by Libby Post in Central Voice. This article was well written and goes right to the heart of the matter. As a divorced individual, I too have experienced the finger pointing and judgment of people who thought they were somehow showing me the love of Christ by telling me about the wrath of God. I was actually told by my pastor (ex-pastor now) that because I was divorced, the other people in our congregation might have a hard time focusing on God. I no longer attend church but I pray and read the Bible. My passions are writing and movies. I look forward to seeing "For the Bible Tells Me So", a movie I probably would not ever have heard about had it not been for this article."

Email your thoughts to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

your voice

How Sick is the Susquehanna?

By Jan Jarrett, President
Penn Future

Over the last several years, those who love the Susquehanna River have watched it deteriorate to the point where fishing guides no longer operate in this once world-class bass fishery. There have been massive fish kills, and anglers report catching fish festooned with lesions.

This summer alone, there have been die-offs of young bass, most likely caused by inhospitable conditions created by a phenomenal bloom of filamentous algae - the slimy, stringy green goop often referred to as pond scum - in the lower Susquehanna.

The explosive growth of the algae is being fueled by excessive plant nutrients, primarily phosphorus, making their way into the river. When the sun shines, the algae super-saturate the water with oxygen. But after dark, the algae suck oxygen out of the water to the point where young fish suffocate and die.

The primary source of phosphorus is polluted agricultural runoff and erosion from farm fields. Agricultural pollution is regulated under the Clean Water Act. Intensive industrial-scale livestock facilities, which have the potential to create large amounts of pollution, must obtain water pollution control permits that outline how they will handle the waste generated by the animals and how they will control erosion.

The Susquehanna River is sick, and only strong action will bring about her recovery. Part of that action must be effective enforcement of environmental laws. Unfortunately, a review by PennFuture of intensive industrial-scale livestock operations in Lancaster County found more than half were out of compliance with the requirements of their pollution control permits, known as Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permits.

Our review of the 81 Lancaster County facilities with CAFO permits and applications with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reveals that 59 percent of them are missing at least one of three critical elements - approved phosphorus-based nutrient management plans; signed agreements with landowners that accept animal waste for disposal or with brokers who handle animal waste and nutrient balance sheets for farm fields where waste is spread; and erosion and sedimentation or conservation plans. Taken together, these three elements of CAFO permits lie at the heart of the effort to keep the pollution out of the water that is so sickening the Susquehanna.

Our review found that 37 percent of the facilities had not submitted proof of an approved phosphorus nutrient management plan. Phosphorus-based nutrient management plans require site-specific evaluations of facilities' waste generation and the ability of the fields identified for waste disposal to absorb the phosphorus and prevent it from running off into nearby waterways. The permits resulting from the plan contain conditions that limit where and how much animal waste can be disposed of on fields.

Many industrial-scale livestock operations do not have enough land on which to safely dispose animal waste. These operations export the waste to farm fields owned by someone else, or use brokers to distribute the waste. Nutrient balance sheets must be drawn up for fields receiving waste. Our review showed that 28 percent of the facilities did not have signed importer or broker agreements, or failed to have nutrient balance sheets for fields receiving waste. Without the agreements and balance sheets, it is impossible to track where and how much waste is being spread on fields.

Finally, our review showed that 23 percent of the facilities did not have the required erosion and sedimentation or conservation plans to limit soil erosion.

While agricultural pollution is not the only source of pollution to the Susquehanna River, it is by far the largest, and it's also the leading cause of the decline of the Chesapeake Bay. The CAFO permitting program is the primary program that regulates agricultural pollution, but if more than half of the facilities covered by the program are not in compliance, there is no chance that it will deliver the water quality improvements that are needed.

If we want to clean up the river, restore the bass fishery and meet our obligations to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, agriculture must do its fair share and DEP absolutely must strictly enforce the CAFO permitting program. Otherwise, the sick Susquehanna will never get well.

letters to the editor

Tobacco Ad
Great raves and reviews on the "tobacco prevention" issue of Central Voice. The funder will be totally pleased!
Brad Gephard
Director of Training

Great Effort
Got my copy of Central Voice Pride Edition. Thanks for the great ads and coverage. Was great we could work together. Thanks for you great effort.
Dave Walker
Pride Board President 2006-2208

Coverage
Once again, Central Voice looks great! Thanks so much for coverage of the Womyn's Chorus.
Yvonne Rothstein

Safe Schools
I just got my copy of Central Voice, and, of course I went right to your article about safe schools! Thanks for including me in this discussion. It's so important, and I think a lot of people are unaware of the continued harassment and isolation that young people experience in schools.
Deborah Gable, MA
Director of Education
Planned Parenthood of
Central Pennsylvania

Warhol Family
Thanks for including the tribute to Andy Warhol. Looks great! I'll be sending copies to the family, especially MaryLou, who let Central Voice use the childhood photo.
Deb Miller

Metcalfe Intolerance
PA Rep. Daryl Metcalfe missed the point when he refused to sign a legislative welcome for the Ahmadiyya Muslim sect. It was a "welcome" not an endorsement of any aspect of their religion. Are we not welcoming of those people different from us? Is Metcalfe so insecure in himself and his own religious beliefs he cannot extend himself to say a simple "hello?" I do not think his email box filled with intolerant reactions to his Christian beliefs. (That's a convenient and slippery excuse offered by a season pol.) I think the emails expressed an intolerance of Metcalfe's intolerance, not that he could follow any of this reasoning.
Jake

Looks Great
The paper looks great and that was a great shot you took of me and Ben.
Derek Cordier, Attorney

community voice

Smoking Ban con'td

municipality owned parks and campuses to protect workers and children.

Are taxes aimed at reducing tobacco purchases a self-defeating way to provide funding for tobacco cessation and other health programs?

Meyers says studies, and experience in state after state, show that higher cigarette taxes are one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking among both youth and adults. "Every state that has significantly increased its cigarette tax has enjoyed substantial increases in revenue, even while reducing smoking. These funds have helped states balance budgets and fund essential services like health care, education and tobacco prevention programs."

Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) has issued says now is a perfect time for smokers to talk to their family physicians about quitting. "Quit now and your health begins to improve immediately, along with the health of those around you, plus you don't have to remember where you can and cannot smoke," says Brad Fox, MD, PAFP president.

A family physician can help support and guide a smoker through the process of quitting, which can take several attempts. Counseling, including the free support program 1-800-QUIT-NOW, and medication are available to help smokers quit and stay quit. Patient information is available at www.familydoctor.org.

Is Commercial Driver's Licensing a Flat Tire?

By Bradley P. Fox, MD
President, Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians

The Associated Press recently illuminated an important study released by the Government Accountability Office on the public safety issue of commercial driver's license (CDL) medical examinations throughout the US. Pennsylvania, it noted, was one of 12 states with excessive driver violations of medical rules, including lack of proper medical certification.

As contained in the report, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) is saddened none of the recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) have been adopted, which potentially could have mitigated some of the needless safety risks taken daily on our state highways. Some of these recommendations focus on ensuring individuals performing the medical evaluations are able to correctly diagnose the conditions that could potentially impair the driver and thus be a detriment to the public health and safety on our roads.

According to the "Medical Examinations Report" required for "Commercial Driver Fitness Determination," the individual performing the exam must be able to identify and counsel the patient on conditions including: diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory dysfunction, hypertension and mental disorders. The PAFP believes that when those who are not trained and educated to make these types of diagnoses are permitted to do so, the result could be downright dangerous and often deadly.

For example, chiropractors are permitted to fulfill the requirements of the medical exam for CDL applicants even though they are not trained to identify or diagnose any of the aforementioned clinical conditions. This is not to say chiropractors cannot attest to some of the physical conditions such as loss of limb or muscular problems, also required by the examination. Chiropractors are excellent clinicians when practicing within their scope of practice, but they are not trained and educated to make the full list of diagnoses required by the CDL medical examination.

Using the aforementioned federal paradigm as the standard, Pennsylvania has even gone so far as to permit chiropractors to perform medical examinations for all driver's license examinations (Act 76 of 2004).

The PAFP believes the public is not well-served when medical examinations for CDL or any driver's license exams are not performed at a high-level by a trained physician - or physician assistant or nurse practitioner in collaboration with a physician. Efforts to address this breach in public safety would, at a minimum, work to ensure the integrity of the licensing process, as well as protect our roads and highways.

Transgender Education Association of Central PA

Providing a safe space and caring support for transgender individuals, family, friends & allies as well as gender education and outreach to universities, businesses, government & non-profit agencies.

Meetings: First Saturday each month, meeting starts at 8 PM
Location: Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
Parking available in secure, low-traffic area.
Alcohol is not permitted.

October 25th - Dinner & the 'Kinsey Sicks' at Dickinson College
November 1st - Meeting & Costume Contest
December 6th - No Meeting, Social Outing Only
January 3rd - Meeting & Discussion Groups
Visit our website for details!

email: info@transcentralpa.org
www.TransCentralPA.org

lesbian notions

How to Lose California

By Diane Silver

Despite encouraging polls, the future of marriage equality looks precarious

If I wanted to ban same-sex marriage in California and were leading the campaign to pass Proposition 8, I know exactly what I'd do. I'd create the perfect political storm.

First, I'd tap every far-right church and congregation in the nation for donations.

That's exactly what the proposition's leading proponent, Protect Marriage, has done, raising about $18 million from Mormons, evangelical Christians, and Roman Catholics, among others. In comparison, the leading opposition group, No on Prop 8, has raised $14 million.

After I'd taken the lead in fundraising, I'd cross my fingers and wish fiercely for a crisis on Wall Street. If donors decided to close their wallets because they felt worried about their financial futures, the opposition wouldn't be able to make up their funding shortfall. I could afford to dominate the airwaves with my ads.

That's exactly what's happening. With the credit crunch and Wall Street meltdown, the country is facing the worst financial crisis since the Depression.

Next, I'd turn the political campaign into a religious crusade and convince my base their way of life is at stake. People will do anything if they believe their backs are against the wall.

Look at what's happening. Hundreds of pastors have called on their congregations to pray and fast for a biblical 40 days. The California Conference of Catholic Bishops has distributed Sunday bulletin inserts to each of the state's 1,600 parishes. Workshops are being held in every diocese. In San Diego alone, anti-equality ministers are expecting to rally 100,000 people at the Chargers' NFL stadium a few days before the vote.

Lest anyone miss the point, evangelical leaders are turning to the Bible, calling this political fight "Armageddon" and declaring that it's a battle between David (that's them) and Goliath (that's us).

If I were leading this campaign, my advertisements would bombard voters with a blizzard of confusing charges that have nothing to do with the issue.

Proposition 8's proponents have done just that. Their first commercial declared that marriage equality could take tax-exempt status away from churches, require that gay marriage be taught in public schools, and lead to lawsuits against those who express their "personal beliefs."

Legal experts call these charges preposterous. By making these ridiculous allegations, however, anti-equality forces frighten voters, heighten the jihadi nature of their campaign, and obscure the real issues.

And finally, being a religious soul, I'd pray that early polls predict the defeat of Proposition 8. Expecting victory, pro-equality folks might ease back, already cash-strapped supporters might decide they don't have to donate, and the effort to defeat Proposition 8 would stumble and fall just short of victory.

Once again, life is imitating my imaginary scenario. A Field Poll taken Sept. 5-14 shows a 38 percent "yes" vote, and 55 percent "no" vote.

Despite those rosy results, consider two facts. The Field Poll was taken before the anti-equality forces aired their first commercial. A poll taken two weeks later by SurveyUSA showed a much closer race, with 44 percent supporting Proposition 8, while 49 percent of voters said they opposed it.

"Proposition 8 could go either way," SurveyUSA noted in its poll report.

Do you see the storm clouds yet?

What happens in California will affect every lesbian, gay, and bisexual American, no matter where they live. Political activists on both sides say this a tipping-point election.

California's oversized cultural influence on the rest of the nation is part of this. The fact that same-sex couples from other states can marry in California is key. Proposition 8 also marks the first time voters will have the power to eliminate a right their neighbors already have. Same-sex couples have been marrying in California since June.

I don't mean to depress you, but I do want to issue a wake-up call. Even in one of the most liberal states in the country, the fate of marriage equality is far from certain.

If fair-minded people around the nation don't donate time and money to No on Prop 8, California's constitution will be amended to ban same-sex marriage. Not only will the national push for marriage equality take a body blow, but thousands of California families headed by lesbian and gay couples will suffer.

Proposition 8 isn't about protecting anti-gay people from lawsuits. Those hypothetical suits are already illegal. It isn't about shielding churches. Every church is already protected by well-established law.

Proposition 8 is about hurting people. It denies the emotional and legal benefits of marriage to an entire class of citizens. It makes their children's lives less secure by making their families less secure.

This proposition is nothing less than an assault on thousands of people who only want to live their lives in peace. It is long past time to put an end to this kind of viciousness.

No on Prop 8 can be found at http://noonprop8.com.

Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose freelance writing has appeared in Ms. magazine, Salon.com, and other national publications. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Judge Performance Not Sexuality Survey Says

Seven out of 10 heterosexual adults (71%) agree that how employees perform their

job should be the standard for judging employees, not whether or not

they are transgender, according to a recent national survey.

The new survey also showed that nearly eight out of 10 (79%) heterosexual adults strongly or somewhat agree that how an employee does his or her job should be the standard for judging an employee, not their sexual orientation.

It's not all Will & Grace out there. Six out of 10 or 61 percent of heterosexuals are still unaware that under federal law it

is legal for an employer to fire someone because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Also, nearly three out of 10 (29%) of gays and lesbians are unaware that under federal law it is legal for an employer to fire someone because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The survey also revealed that a majority of heterosexual adults are supportive of marriage-like workplace benefits for same sex couples virtually across-the-board.

For example:

Three out of four (75%) heterosexuals feel that spouses of married heterosexual employees and committed partners of gay and lesbian employees both should receive leave when they lose a spouse/partner or close family member.

More than two-thirds (68%) of heterosexuals feel that spouses of married heterosexual employees and committed partners of gay and lesbian employees both should receive leave rights for family and medical emergencies as outlined in FMLA.

Almost two-thirds (64%) of heterosexuals feel that spouses of married heterosexual employees and committed partners of gay and lesbian employees both should receive untaxed health benefits under federal law.

These are some of the key findings from the 7th annual national Out & Equal Workplace Survey, whose outcomes are captured for the first time

in a comprehensive Workplace Culture Report, highlighting the trends towards full acceptance in today's workplaces towards LGBT employees, their partners, spouses and families. The 2008 Out & Equal Workplace Survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive(R) in conjunction with Out & Equal and Witeck-Combs

Communications, among 2,637 U.S. adults, of whom 343 self-identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT).

"It's encouraging that heterosexuals appear more and more committed to ending these forms of employment discrimination and to extending equal benefits to all employees," said Out & Equal Executive Director Selisse Berry. "Despite these recent strides, however, there remain far too few companies and jurisdictions that provide meaningful protections to all employees, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. There is still much progress to be made in today's workplace

Nipper

Darlene Nipper and Russell Roybal Join Task Force Staff

Darlene Nipper has been named deputy executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Task Force Movement Building Director Russell Roybal has been promoted to the position of deputy executive director of external relations, and Brian Johnson is now chief financial officer.

Nipper brings nearly 20 years of management and advocacy experience to the Task Force. She has held leadership positions in the government, corporate and nonprofit sectors, including the city government of Washington, D.C.; Black Entertainment Television (BET) Foundation; the National Mental Health Association; and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), where she served as chief operating officer.

Roybal has been named deputy executive director of external relations. In this capacity, he will oversee the organization's fundraising and communications work, including ensuring the Task Force is using its resources strategically to increase the visibility of issues of importance to the lgbt community. Roybal will spearhead the Task Force's branding and marketing work, creating a cohesive voice and messaging to engage the public in the Task Force's mission.

Faith-based Work

The Task Force Foundation's Institute for Welcoming Resources (IWR) and five partner organizations have been awarded a total of $1.2 million from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund to work jointly to expand the number of churches that are welcoming and affirming of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and to strengthen their internal capacities.

This funding is significant not only because of its dollar amount, but also because

continued on page 19

Whitaker Center Renames Building

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts recently renamed the Colonial Building, 225 Market Street, downtown Harrisburg, the Benjamin Olewine III Center. Mr.Olewine donated $1,000,000, strengthening the presence of the Whitaker office building across the street from main location.

"Whitaker Center is such a vital part of the resurgence of downtown Harrisburg and I wanted it to become even more so," said Olewine. "The value of the center to the arts and education are beyond compare. I felt my gift would help to ensure Whitaker Center's presence for many years as the cultural and educational center of Central Pennsylvania."

The newly christened Benjamin Olewine III Center is a five floor office building and home to the administrative offices of Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts; Lavery, Faherty, Young, & Patterson, P.C.; Commonwealth of PA/Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council; Life Sciences Greenhouse of Central Pennsylvania; Prosanos Corporation; Central Pennsylvania Abstract Services, Inc.; Missat Consulting; in addition to the street level storefronts of Goldfinger Jewelers, Shakti Groceries and The Original Copy Shop & Quick Printing.

"As we touch the lives of nearly 400,000 community members each year, I believe that it is apparent that Central Pennsylvania has warmly embraced Whitaker Center and its wide array of programs and activities," said Dr. Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center President and CEO. "We are most grateful for Mr. Olewine's extraordinary support, including his previous contributions as well as his most recent commitment. His tremendous generosity provides a stronger foundation as we pursue our shared vision of Whitaker Center as a vibrant cultural and educational center for the benefit of the region."

Benjamin Olewine III and his family's philanthropic support is in evidence throughout the Harrisburg region and beyond. Highlights of these significant contributions in the community include the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary; the Gloria M. Olewine Gallery of Harsco Science Center at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts; International Place featuring Bricco, Ciao! a Bakery and Olewine's Meat & Cheese House; Community General Osteopathic Hospital; and the Madeline L. Olewine Memorial Library, among others.

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Nov. 9, p.m.
The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion
A fun-filled outing for the entire family, The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion is much more than a magic show. This amazing pair of "Modern Day Houdinis" combines comedy, drama, romance and suspense with elaborate stage illusions and dazzling special effects that will leave you wondering "How did they DO that?!?"

OPEN STAGE
Open Stage of Harrisburg kicks off its 23rd Season with
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Gamut Theatre Group presents William Shakespeare's classic tragedy of ***Romeo and Juliet*** as its educational outreach production for the 2008-2009 school year. This edited version of the play is Shakespeare's original text trimmed to a crisp one hour and twenty minutes. Six professional actors bring the text to life, with the help of modern music, exciting fight choreography, and costuming with a classic "time-out-of-time" feel. After each performance, the actors and director will be available for an educational talkback. Student workshops may be scheduled for an additional fee. Student matinees will be performed at Gamut Classic Theatre December 5; January 23; and April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Public performances will take place April 3 - 5. Info: 717.238.4111; www.gamutplays.org

LANCASTER SYMPHONY & CHORUS
Lancaster Symphony Chorus joins Lancaster Symphony Orchestra to ***"Celebrate The Planets"*** Nov.14-16 at the Fulton Opera House, 12 N. Prince Street, Downtown Lancaster. Featuring the acclaimed composition, The Planets, a suite of astronomical proportions, the concert celebrates NASA's 50th anniversary. The concert also showcases the world premiere of Miguel del Aguila's Choral Suite No. 2. This soulful chorus of joyous affirmation relates a romantic story crossing five centuries in time. Tickets: (717) 397-7425, from $25-$62.

...AND ELSEWHERE:
Saturday, November 1- ***Haunted Hayride***
Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association, Mechanicsburg

Saturday, November 1 - ***Camp Michaux Walking Tour.*** Offered by the Cumberland County Historical Society: Meet at Pine Grove Furnace, Carlisle

Saturday, November 8 - ***Bulldog Fall Brawl Wrestling Tournament***
Big Spring High School, Newville

Poe Evermore until Nov. 9
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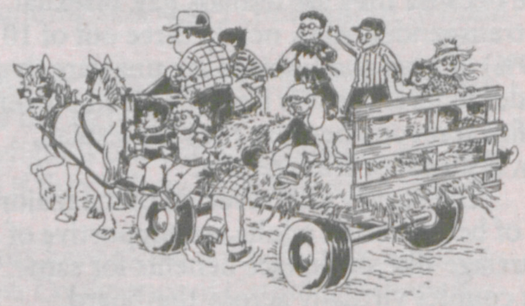
Imagine a moonlit night, the towering pines surrounding the mansion cast mysterious shadows upon the sandstone fortress. Edgar Allan himself, along with bizarre characters from his tales of mystery and mayhem, fill the Mansion hallways bidding all welcome to an evening of spine tingling tales in an unmistakable atmosphere of Gothic drama. Phone: 717-665-7021; www.parenfaire.com



Hay Rides until Nov. 23 - Indian Echo Caverns, Hummelstown. Hay Rides around the property. Enjoy the Texas Longhorn cattle, see the fall foliage. Fun fall activity. Group rates and special times available. Phone: 717-566-8131

Amish Family Christmas until Dec. 23
Freedom Chapel Dinner Theatre, Christiana. Celebrate and Amish Christmas through the eyes of the King family. It's been over a year since Rachel and Jake got married, so there are sure to be surprises in store for the family. This original show will warm hearts and fill families with the Christmas spirit. Phone: 610-593-7013

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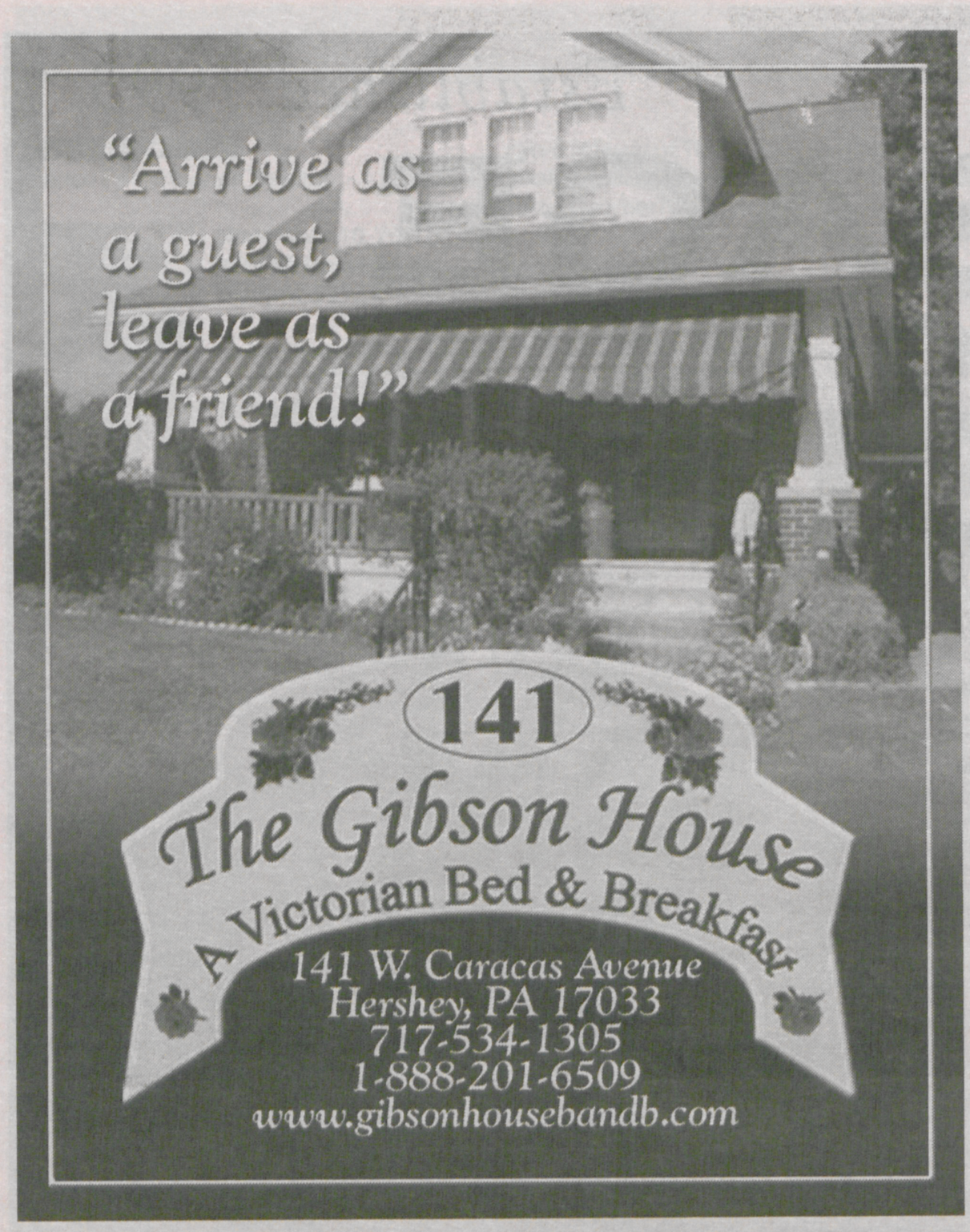

Daughters of Bilitis Co-founder Del Martin Dies

Del Martin, left, and her spouse, Phyllis Lyon, celebrating their wedding June 16 at City Hall in San Francisco.

Del Martin, who married her partner of 55 years, Phyllis Lyon, on June 16 in the first legal gay union in California and who helped found the pioneering lesbian-rights group the Daughters of Bilitis, died recently. She was 87.

The cause was a broken arm that exacerbated her existing health problems, Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told The Associated Press.

The June wedding was not the couple's first effort at legalizing their union. In February 2004, Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco challenged California's marriage laws by announcing that the city would issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples who requested them. Of the more than 4,000 couples who married before the California Supreme Court intervened a month later, Ms. Martin and Ms. Lyon may have been the oldest, and were certainly first and the most celebrated.

That summer, though, the California Supreme Court invalidated all licenses for same-sex marriages, arguing that the mayor had exceeded his legal authority. Ms. Martin and Ms. Lyon were among the original plaintiffs in a series of lawsuits that led to the court's declaring same-sex marriages legal this year.

Mr. Newsom invited the couple to be the first couple to marry under the new ruling. This they did, in San Francisco's City Hall, after living together as a couple for more than half a century.

On Wednesday, Ms. Lyon, 83, said in a statement, "I am devastated, but I take some solace in knowing we were able to enjoy the ultimate rite of love and commitment before she passed."

While working for a construction trade journal in Seattle, Ms. Martin met Ms. Lyon, an employee at the same firm, and the two became romantically involved and entered into a permanent relationship in 1953. In 1955, having moved to San Francisco, they joined with six other women to found the Daughters of Bilitis, the first social and political organization for lesbians in the United States, which soon established branches around the country. The name was taken from "Songs of Bilitis," a collection of lesbian love poems by Pierre Louys.

The PA House State Government Committee recently discussed, along with several other pieces of legislation, H.B. 1400, which would prevent discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The hearing followed three public hearings around the state. From left, Rep. Dan Frankel, PA Human Relations Commission chair Steve Glassman, and lobbyist Stacy Sobel. Frankel is prime sponsor of the bill which has 78 House sponsors and 22 Senate sponsors along bipartisan lines. In a state survey, 68% of Pennsylvanians support such a measure. In a nationwide Gallop poll, 89% support such legislation.

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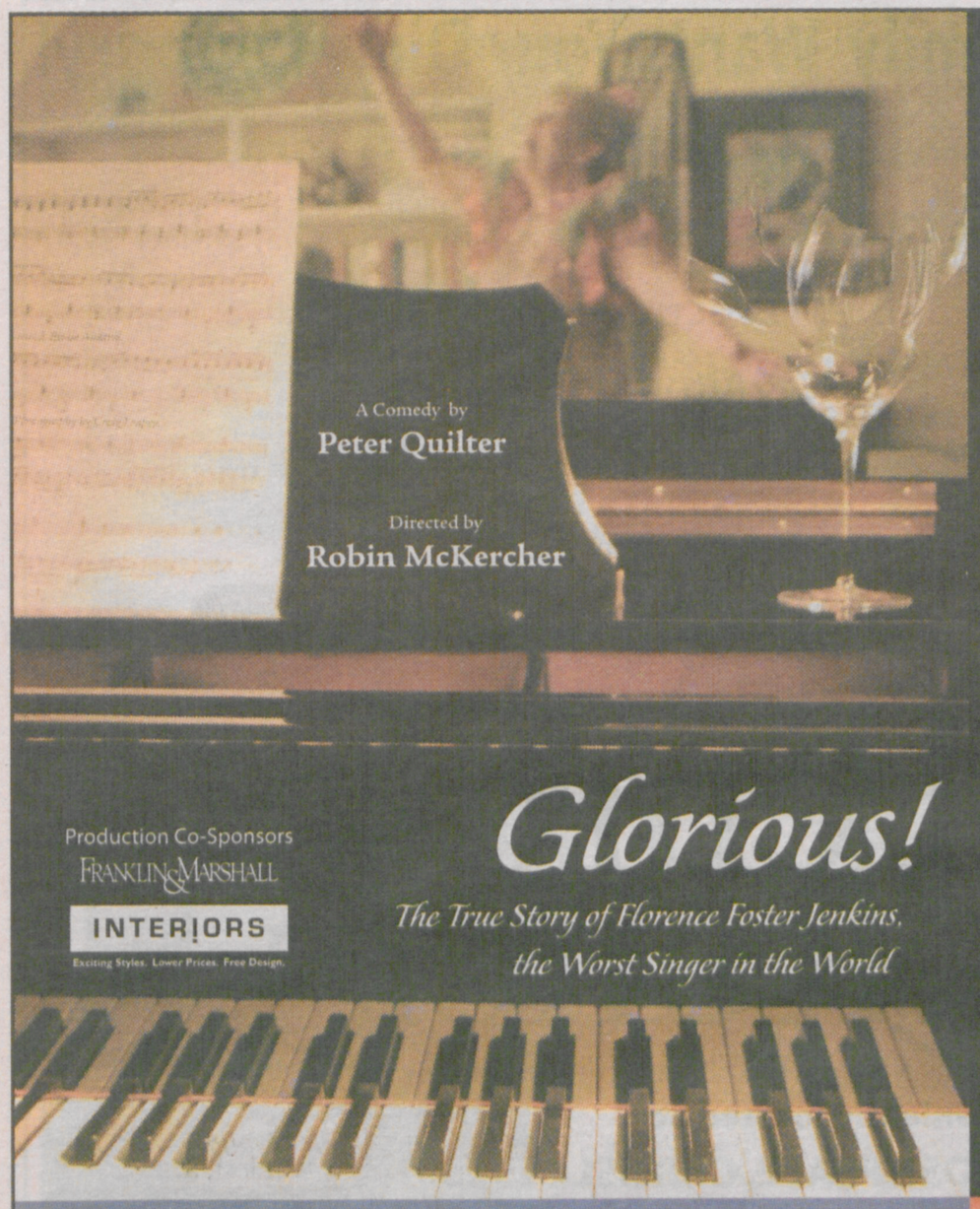

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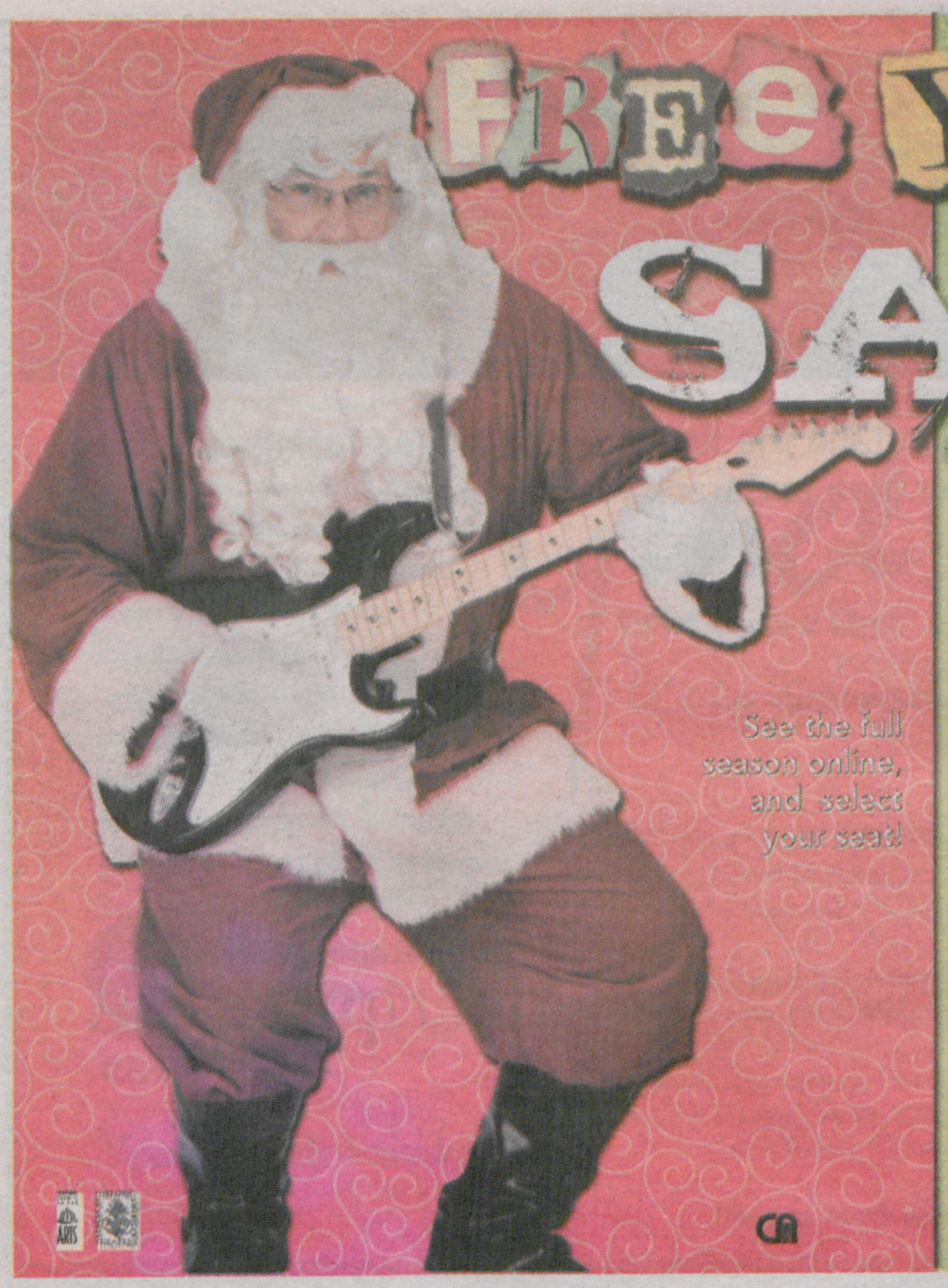

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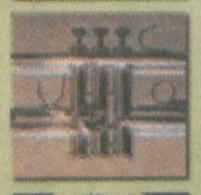
Sun., Nov. 9 • 3:00pm You'll be amazed by this pair of "Modern Day Houdinis" that mixes comedy, suspense and special effects to create dazzling stage illusions before your very eyes!



Dallas Brass **Thur., Nov. 20 • 7:30pm**
This blend of brass, drums and percussion mixes classical, folk, Dixieland, Broadway, patriotic and hip hop music. Joined by the Dallastown High School band. Pre-show dinner option available. Sponsored by: Menchey Music, Accent Instruments

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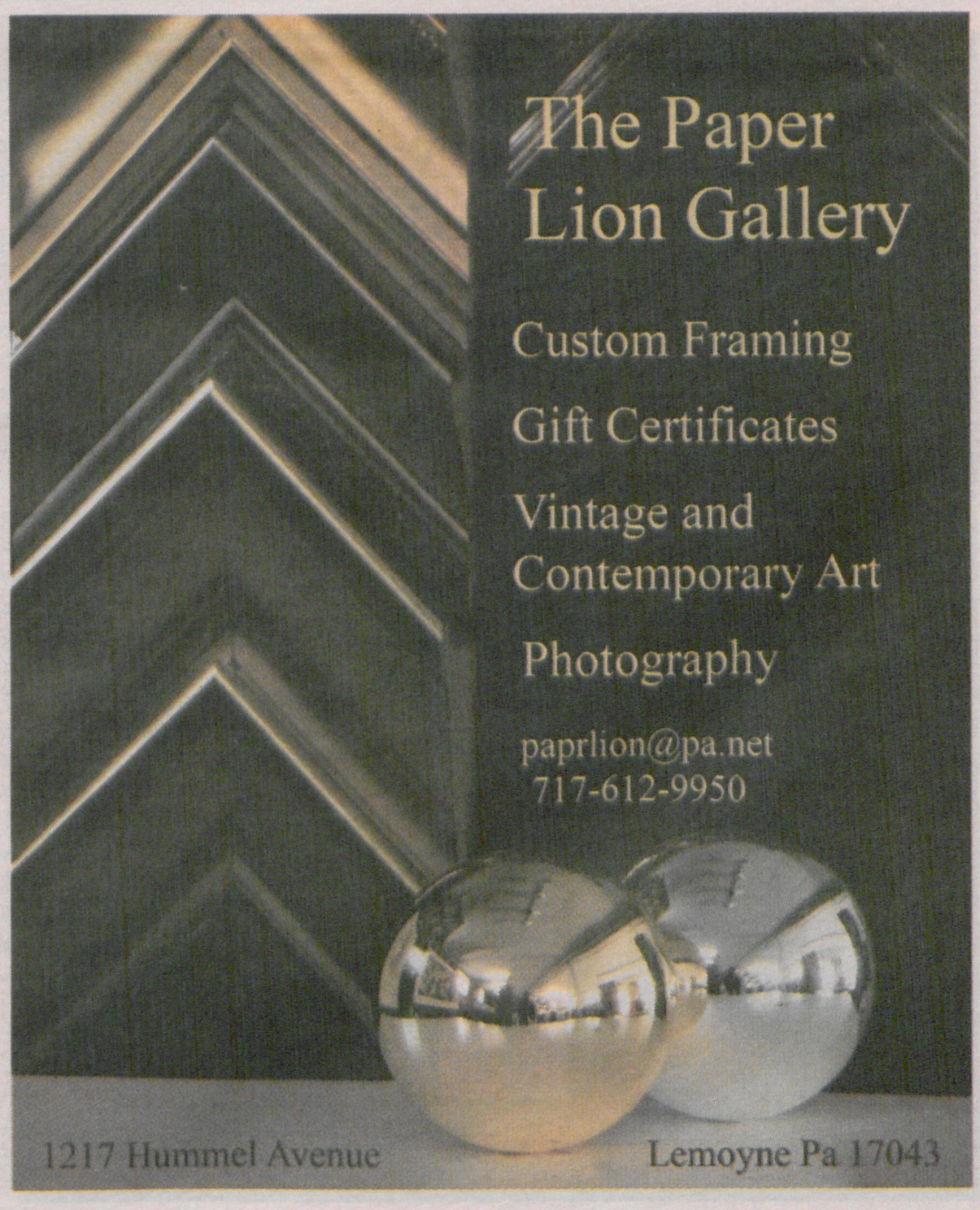

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LGBT center coalition

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Nov. 29-Dec. 31. Featuring etchings,acrylic paintings and photographs by Sarah Anne Frotscher, Philip Huber, Kay Layne, and Paul Nagle.
Reception Friday, Dec. 5, 5-8 PM will include a Jewelry Trunk Show by Peggy Gekas and music by jazz pianist Barrie Spessler.

BAL MASQUE, Harrisburg's Mardi Gras -
Sat., Feb. 21, 7-midnight at Appalachian Brewing Company. Call now for reservations! Open seating @ $35, reserved @ $65. Tickets on sale now!

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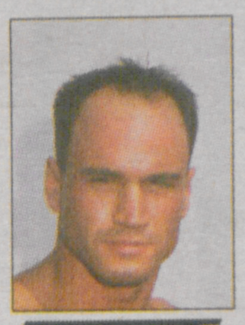

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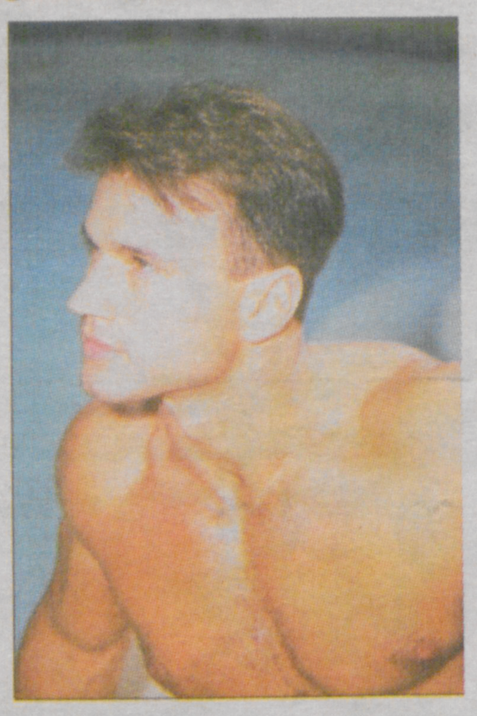

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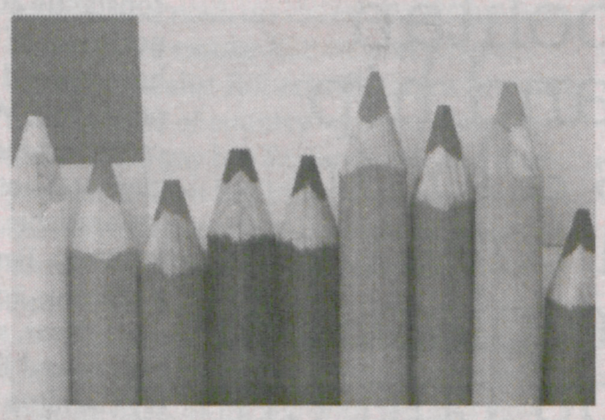
Warhol Expert Fills Art Association

Art Association of Harrisburg filled the large downstairs gallery with guests assembled to hear Warhol expert Debra Miller, PhD. From left, Andy Warhol (Mark Wesling, classical guitarist), Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli, Miller, and her husband Ray Costello.

Art Association of Harrisburg supporters, from left, Anne Tantum, Re DeSabres, Irena Rusenas (in back), unknown guest, Agnes Armstrong, and lecturer Debra Miller, PhD.

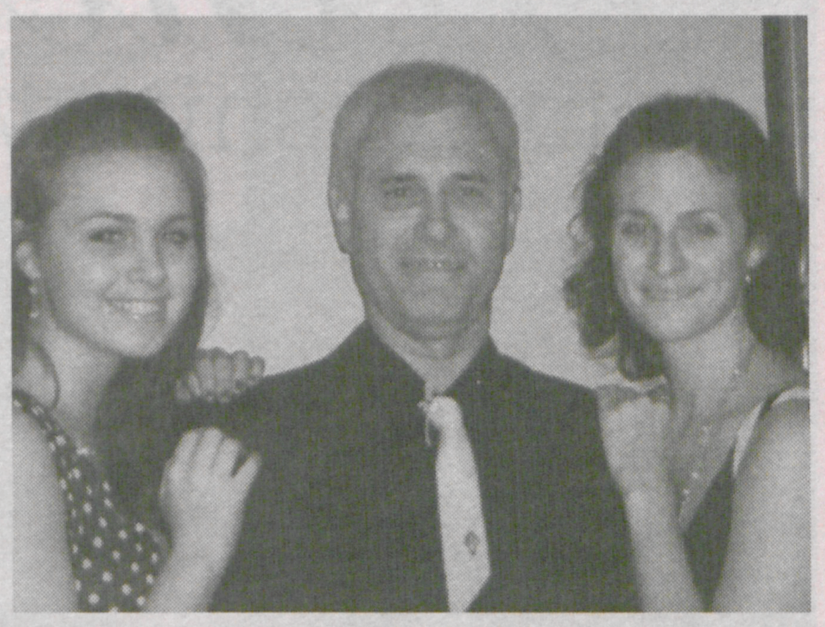
Warm Up with Winter Art Classes

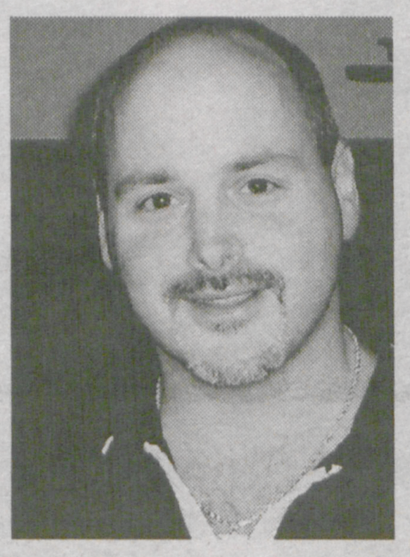


Warm up your winter with art classes at the Art Association of Harrisburg. Classes for youth and adults start the week of January 5. Call 717-236-1432 for a full class schedule or visit www.artassocofhbg.com. And remember, the purchase of an art class makes a great holiday gift for a special someone. An AAH class gift certificate makes a neat stocking stuffer.

Theatre Harrisburg Stages Sound of Music

By Frank Pizzoli





(top) Von Trapp Family From left, Laura Gingerich (Liesl von Trapp), Doug Macut (Captain von Trapp), and Amanda Wagner (Maria).

(left) Sound of Music director and choreographer Steven. L. Flom, is a familiar face around Theatre Harrisburg. He's designed dances for their Dreamgirls, Bat Boy, The Pirates of Penzance, The Rocky Horror Show, and more.

Whitaker Center is alive with the Sound of Music!

For its first Rodgers & Hammerstein production in nearly 30 years, Theatre Harrisburg brings The Sound of Music to Whitaker Center's Sunoco Main Stage. The show is the world's most popular musical. Join Maria and those talented Von Trapp children for some of the most recognizable and enduring music ever written for stage.

"About 160 people auditioned for all the parts," says veteran director and choreographer Steven L. Flom. About 110 of those auditioning were children. The show calls for seven young actors who can also sing and move well in an ensemble fashion. "Every parent wanted their child in the play," says Flom.

"Our production will have the largest pit orchestra in recent years," Flom says with excitement. The orchestra will sport an entire string ensemble and musicians from all over the region.

Set in Austria in the late 1930s, the play tells the familiar story of Maria, a novice nun who is hired as governess for the seven children of the strict widower Captain von Trapp. After organizing the children into a talented singing group, she eventually also wins the heart of the Captain. However, the dark Nazi presence in Europe and impending war threatens to destroy their idyllic family life. The only choice is a daring escape plan.

The original Broadway production starred the legendary Mary Martin, and the Academy Award winning movie version showcased the talents of the remarkable Julie Andrews. The Theatre Harrisburg production will feature not only some of the most recognizable and enduring music ever written for the stage – including "Climb Every Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do, Re, Mi," "Edelweiss," "How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria," "The Lonely Goat Herd," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," and, of course, the title song – but also several additional songs written specifically for the motion picture.

The play features a cast of nearly 30 and stars Amanda Wagner as Maria, Doug Macut as Capt. vonTrapp, and, as the von Trapp children Laura Gingerich as Liesl, Clinton McConnell as Friedrich, Kate Rossiter as Louisa, Raymond Wrightstone as Kurt, Madeline Broderick as Brigitta, Micaela Eckert as Marta and Reagan Dukeshier as Gretl. Other featured performers include Jonneke van Olden as Mother Abbess, George Diehl as Max, Patty Cole as Elsa, Jeremy Sickles as Rolf, Scott Schmittel as Herr Zeller, Randal Kalbfleisch as Admiral von Schreiber, Bob Graci as Franz, Rebecca Bremer as Frau Schmidt, Diane Bateman as Sister Sofia, Pam Eusi as Sister Berthe and Wendy Faust as Sister Margaretta. Also in the cast are Carol Anderson, Ann Ariano, Amy Boeshore, Laura Bremer, Brendon Betz, Debbie Coffee, Rachel Cullari, Shawn Graci, Regina Kalbfleisch, Ashton Ramos, Briana Stalker and Graham Zimmerman.

The entire production is under the direction of Flom who also serves as choreographer. Gregg Mauroni is the music director and Theatre Harrisburg veteran Paul Foltz is the costumer. Sets are designed by Jerilyn Kidd and created by Jack Gottschalk.

Flom's visit to Maria's private chapel at the family's US compound in Stowe, Vermont brought all the music alive for him. "This play will leave a lasting mark on all who see the production," he says.

Performances are scheduled for Nov. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 8:00 p.m., Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 8, 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. The Nov. 6 final dress rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. is a Preview Night performance which will be open to the public at a cost of $12 per person; seating is general admission. Additionally, the Saturday, Nov. 8 2 p.m. matinee is a special Family Performance with all tickets priced at $15. Seats for all performances may be purchased by calling The BOX at 214-ARTS.

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Weekending in Washington, D.C.

photo by Andrew Collins

Georgetown, with its ritzy boutiques and elegant Colonial and Victorian architecture, is one of the best neighborhoods in Washington, D.C., for strolling. (Photo by Andrew Collins)

If Washington, D.C., has any drawback for weekend visitors, it's that it has far too many museums, monuments, and attractions to visit in just two or three days. Furthermore, this progressive metropolis has developed an impressive array of cosmopolitan restaurants, festive gay bars, and hip hotels in recent years. There's a lot to see and do, but if your time in town is limited, don't fret - with a little planning and plenty of stamina, you can enjoy a wonderfully engaging and enriching weekend in the national capital.

Your first night in town, consider grabbing a light dinner in Dupont Circle, and then perhaps exploring a few of the neighborhood's extensive gay-nightlife options. P Street due west of Dupont Circle cultivates an interesting mix of eateries - one of the best is Pizzeria Paradisio, which bakes tantalizingly good wood-fired pies. Or just off busy 17th Street, another stretch of popular if less critically acclaimed restaurants, you can tuck into such down-home fare as Old Bay-seasoned peel 'n' eat shrimp and tangy barbecued oysters at Hank's Oyster Bar, one of the culinary stars of the city.

A few of the many notable spots for Friday bar-hopping including J.R.'s, a classic stand-and-model video bar on 17th Street, and its multi-level down-the-street neighbor, Cobalt. Over near P Street, Omega is the grandpa of Dupont Circle gay clubs - a racially diverse disco and lounge that packs in crowds into the wee hours.

On Saturday morning, preface a day of sightseeing by enjoying a light breakfast at the Dupont Circle branch of the local Firehook Bakery and Coffeehouse chain. Or for a more substantial brunch, try the cafe at the long-running indie bookstore, Kramerbooks & Afterwards - the Maine lobster omelet topped with lemon hollandaise sauce is a real crowd-pleaser.

When it comes to cultural attractions, Washington is an embarrassment of riches - there may be no other city in the nation with a greater number of daytime diversions. Among the possibilities along the city's National Mall, try to check out a few of the Smithsonian Institution museums. Highlights include the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Portrait Gallery. Also set aside time to see the moving U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which distributes a pamphlet, "Homosexuals," that details the persecution of gays and lesbians in Nazi-occupied Europe; there are also gay video testimonies in the museum's library.

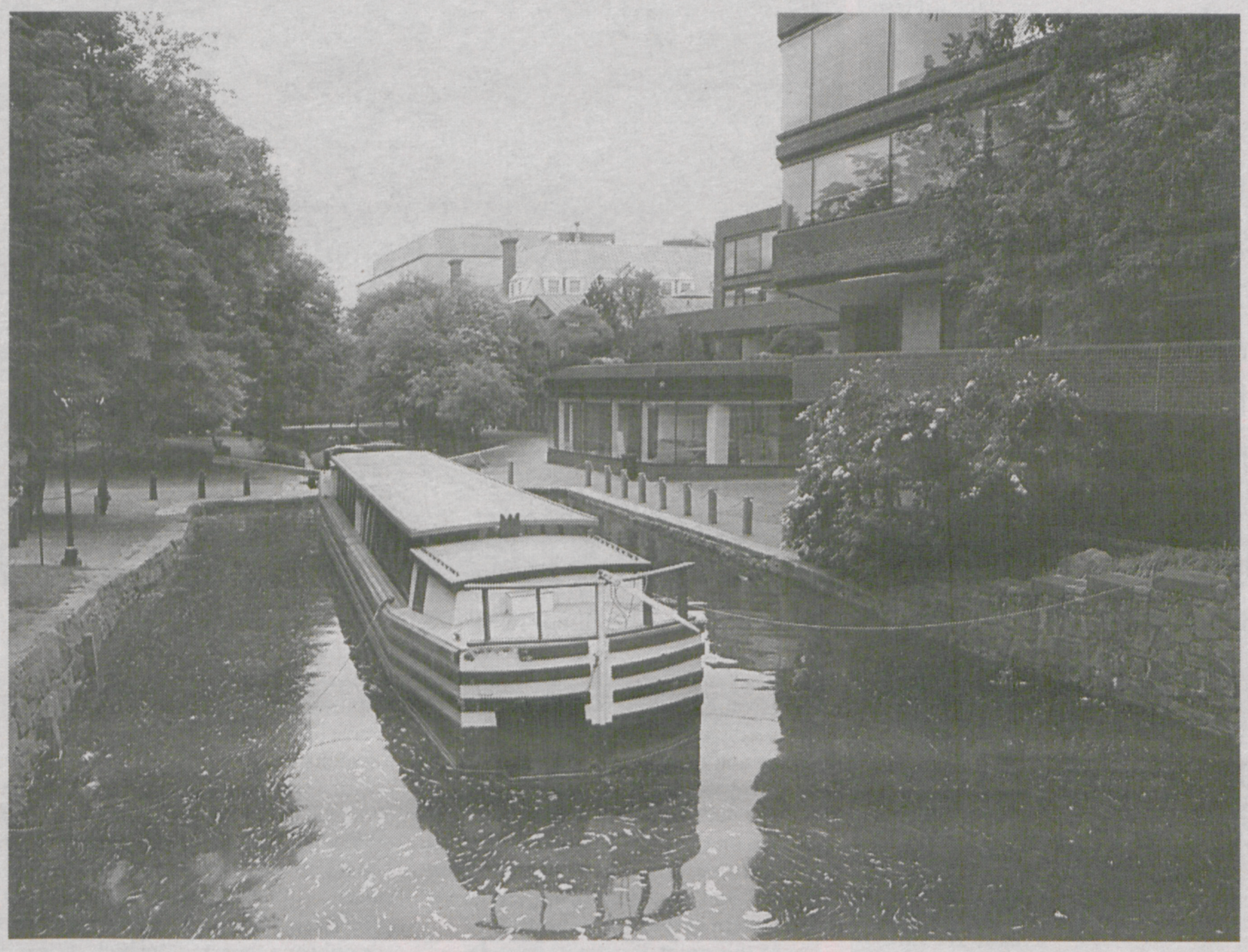
If you're an art lover, don't miss the city's largest non-federal museum, the Beaux-Arts-style Corcoran Gallery of Art, which contains more than 11,000 works of art. Its emphasis is on late-19th- and early 20th-century European painting, American painting and portraiture, and photography. The Corcoran has an excellent little cafe, perfect for grabbing a light lunch to break up your explorations. Several blocks north of the Mall, in Old Downtown, is the outstanding National Museum of Women in the Arts. The permanent collection includes works by the likes of Georgia O'Keeffe, Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, and Berenice Abbott, and quite a few excellent rotating installations keep this facility fresh and exciting.

In the evening, head to the city's exciting and constantly evolving U Street corridor, a 10-minute walk northeast of Dupont Circle. A number of hip restaurants have opened in this neighborhood in recent years. Start off at Cork Wine Bar, a spacious haunt drawing a trendy crowd for mostly Italian, Spanish, and French wines by the glass and bottle, and light tapas (a full selection of entrees are available, in case you'd rather just dine here for the evening). For nibbles, consider the avocado served with pistachios, toasted-pistachio oil, sea salt, and grilled bread.

Next, stroll a few blocks north to Marvin, an elegant but relaxed Belgian bistro with an innovative Low Country Carolina spin. Don't miss such memorable starters as Southern-inspired shrimp-and-grits, or Belgian-style moules frites with shallots, fennel, and white wine. Country-fried chicken with waffles, and braised pork shank with French green lentils rank among the top main courses.

continued on page 14

From here you're within walking distance of some of the city's hottest gay bars, among them Be Bar, a dark and urbane spot with a small but packed dance floor and a mixed-gender following; Halo, a cool and colorful bi-level lounge that's especially popular earlier in the night; and Nellie's Sports Bar, a modern and stylish take on a classic sports bar that pulls in a mix of women and men. Serious revelers should finish the night at Town, a late-night gay disco that's slightly off the beaten path (you might want to cab it here) - this bustling warehouse club is open till 4 a.m.



Having spent Saturday touring museums, set aside Sunday for a more relaxing, outdoorsy exploration of some of the city's charming neighborhoods, where lively shops and "family"-friendly cafes proliferate. Begin in the morning by walking north from Dupont Circle up to the artsy and international Adams-Morgan neighborhood, which is home to a mix of West African, Asian, and Latino restaurants and residential enclaves. Have brunch at gay-popular Perry's, an Asian-influenced modern American restaurant with a commendable sushi bar - the acclaimed Sunday drag brunch is a delightful experience if you don't mind a towering drag queen plopping down on your lap and scrambling your eggs to the disco remix of "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina."

Head back to Dupont Circle for a leisurely tour of the neighborhood, which has been one of the nation's most gay-identified enclaves for more than four decades, although it's becoming increasingly more eclectic each year. The area possesses a wealth of open spaces, parks, statuary, and grand 19th-century architecture. You'll find quirky and engaging shops and eateries on virtually all of the major streets fanning out from the Dupont traffic circle.

In case you still have the energy to tour one more museum, consider stopping by the neighborhood's top cultural attraction, the stunning Phillips Collection. The first permanent museum of modern art in the nation, the Phillips contains many works by Georges Braque, Mark Rothko, Paul Klee, and Henri Matisse, as well as creations by such gay artists as David Hockney, Thomas Eakins, and Marsden Hartley.

To the west of Dupont Circle, across Rock Creek, is the upscale neighborhood of Georgetown, an excellent place to spend a few hours shopping on a Sunday afternoon. Head to the intersection of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue to find Georgetown's retail pulse.

On Sunday evening, head to another of the city's engaging and gay-popular neighborhoods, Capitol Hill, which has a handful of excellent options for dinner. At the upscale restaurant Sonoma, you can dine on superbly crafted contemporary American fare and with pairings from a dazzling wine list. A sure bet for both excellent food (of the Latin American variety) and lively cabaret is the Banana Cafe, a colorfully decorated spot with a crowd completely diverse in age, gender, and style.

The Capitol Hill pub Mr. Henry's, with one of the best (antique) jukeboxes in town, is a great place to meet or make friends, and nosh on casual American fare. Upstairs is a smoke free cabaret where talented vocalist Roberta Flack got her start. Nearby, fans of country-western dancing flock to the gay bar Remingtons, and the popular lesbian bar Phase One has been the cornerstone of D.C.'s women's scene since 1970 - there's live music here many evenings.

In terms of where to stay during your D.C. weekend, Dupont Circle is a great lodging base, as it's rife with hip and gay-friendly hotels, and it's close to just about all of the noteworthy sections of the city. With a great location in the heart of the neighborhood, the stylish Renaissance M Street Hotel has sleek, modern rooms with a high-tech amenities and super-cushy linens. This is a great choice for art lovers, as the hotel regularly teams up with the Corcoran Gallery of Art to offer special deals that include admission to the museum's latest exhibit (through late January 2009, it's a Richard Avedon photography show), a walking map of the city, an artful in-room goodie bag, breakfast for two in the hotel's M Bar, and preferred room rates.

Part of the gay-friendly Kimpton Group, the Hotel Palomar occupies a striking mid-rise along P Street's restaurant row. The 335 units are among the largest guest accommodations in the city, and tall windows let in plenty of sunshine - Frette linens, upholstered headboards, marble bathrooms, and faux-alabaster nightstands lend a sophisticated, stylish vibe. A complimentary wine reception each evening, an outdoor lap pool, and an outstanding Mediterranean-inspired restaurant, Urbana, round out the many fine amenities.

Kimpton has several other great hotels in Washington (as well as a few cool properties just across the border in the northern Virginia cities of Alexandria and Arlington). Another highlight not far from Dupont Circle is the dashing Hotel Rouge, which sits just off classy Embassy Row, an easy walk from gay nightlife on R Street. It contains 137 spacious rooms bathed in reds and yellows and a swanky lounge serving such memorable cocktails as the Madonna (Cuervo, Grand Marnier, Cointreau, and fresh orange and lime juices). It's a fine spot to kick off an evening of exploring either the bars of Dupont Circle, or the growing scene a few blocks away in the U Street Corridor.

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

the little back book

Banana Cafe (202-543 5906, www.bananacafedc.com). Be Bar (202-232-7450, www.bebardc.com). Cobalt (202-232-4416, www.cobaltdc.com). Cork Wine Bar (202-265-CORK, www.corkdc.com). Firehook Bakery and Coffeehouse (202-588-9296, www.firehook.com). Halo (202-797-9730, www.halodc.com). Hank's Oyster Bar (202-462-4265, www.hanksdc.com). Hotel Palomar (202-448-1800 or 877-866-3070, www.hotelpalomar-dc.com). Hotel Rouge (202-232-8000 or 800-738-1202, www.rougehotel.com). J.R.'s (202-328 0090, www.jrswdc.com). Kramerbooks & Afterwards (202-387-1400, www.kramers.com). Marvin (202-797-7171, www.marvindc.com) Mr. Henry's (202-546 8412, www.mrhenrys-restaurant.com). Nellie's Sports Bar (202-332-6355, www.nelliessportsbar.com). Omega (202-223 4917, www.omegadc.com). Perry's (202-234 6218, www.perrysad-amsmorgan.com). Phase One (202-544-6831, www.phase1dc.com). Pizzeria Paradiso (202-223 1245, www.eatyourpizza.com). Remington's (202-543 3113, www.remington-swdc.com). Renaissance M Street Hotel (202-775-0800 or 888-803-1298, www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasrw-renaissance-m-street-hotel). Sonoma (202-333-2912, www.sonomadc.com). Town (202-234-TOWN, www.towndc.com). Washington DC Convention and Visitors Association (202-789 7000, www.washington.org).

Living with Lyme Disease –
A Local Man's Story

Many know him as the theatre wunderkind who's brought joy to thousands over the years. Others know him as a man struggling with Lyme disease. Clark Nicholson, founder of Gamut Theatre which comprises The Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival and Popcorn Hat Players Children's Theatre is a brave man. He shares here his trials and tribulations with a disease often misunderstood and rarely discussed.

Nicholson's words originally appeared on his organization's web site gamutplays.org. his wife an fellow Gamut conspirator Melissa asked him to write about his experience after being diagnosed with Lyme disease..

In Nicholson's own words…

A couple of months ago I was diagnosed with late stage Lyme disease. Now before I go any farther, I know that some of you have already dealt with this on your own, or you have a friend or a loved one who has dealt with Lyme. This is to be expected, especially in Pennsylvania, as the state has become the second highest rating for diagnosed Lyme disease in the nation with over 6,000 cases last year. The state closely follows New York State. The Center for Disease Control estimates that the real numbers of infections are probably ten times this number. That's a possible 60,000 Pennsylvanians infected in one year. Lime disease is the fastest growing infectious disease in the US.

First, I'm sure that many of you have heard of situations where a person was diagnosed with Lyme, immediately treated, and in a month or so all was well. This is very often the case. If detected and treated early, the first stages of Lyme are an inconvenience but are relatively easily dealt with. The problem lies in the fact that detection and treatment during the early stages is often missed. Conventional medical wisdom is that if someone develops a "bull's-eye" shaped rash then Lyme is probably present. In many cases a test is ordered before antibiotic treatment has started. And the "clock" has begun to tick.

To determine if Lyme disease is present, conventional medicine relies on a standard test known as an ELISA which determines the presence of many different types of antibodies. This test, when used to look for Lyme disease antibodies, often comes back "negative" and then treatment might not be administered. Patients feel safe because they have been assured of a "negative" test. What doctors and patients may not know, because many facts concerning the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease are only now coming to light, is that use of this particular test for Lyme detection is by some estimates between 30-50% accurate. Use of the test is like flipping a coin or worse. Consequently, many people who have Lyme believe that they don't and many who don't have Lyme believe that they do. It's a real shame because about $40 worth of Doxycycline will eliminate Lyme at this early stage.

There is a much more accurate test: the Western Blot test, but it's very expensive and because the ELISA is the medical standard detection test, insurance companies may not cover it. So, if you can get it, the Western Blot test is about $850 out of pocket. And it takes weeks to receive test results.

A patient may not get a bull's-eye shaped rash. I had two large black/purple marks on the back of my leg and was treated for spider bites after a couple of negative-for-Lyme ELISA tests. A patient may not have any rash or any symptoms at all after a bite. A bull's-eye rash only shows up about 30% of the time. And this stage all signs of Lyme may just "go away." Or so it appears. Borrelia, the bacteria that creates Lyme disease, goes into your system and usually hides. The bacteria then builds up its forces.

Signs of later stage Lyme often show up months or even years later. The symptoms are highly varied from person to person. Lyme mimics other diseases very well. Often it begins its manifestation as a pain in the joints, particularly the knees and hips. If it has become active in the central nervous system, stiff and sore muscles throughout the body and most often in the neck appear. Other symptoms include: plantar fasciitis foot pain, Bells Palsy which temporarily immobilizes one side of the face, fibromyalga, osteo -arthritis, and extreme fatigue. Lyme can attack and compromise any and every organ system in the human body.

At this point, if patients have determined they don't have one of the other illnesses that Lyme mimics - ALS, MS, fibromyalga, Lupus, or osteo-arthritis - they will usually find that getting the aggressive and expensive treatment required means that they must go outside of the traditional medical establishment. Unknown to the Lyme sufferer, he or she has stepped right into the middle of a huge medical and political feud that is raging beneath the surface in this country. This is the last thing that a person with Lyme wants to deal with, but that doesn't make the problem go away.

The treatment and even the existence of later stage Lyme is highly disputed by the medical community, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). They flatly deny that there is any such thing as further infection. It is their claim that the increasingly painful and debilitating symptoms of Lyme are caused by "Post Lyme Syndrome". In other words, there is very little to be done. However, there is a small subset of Doctors: Lyme Literate Medical Doctors, or LLMDs who have been trained by the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) to treat chronic Lyme. These folks often become pariahs in the medical community because their treatment methods, which involve high dosages of very, very expensive antibiotics over months to multi-year long periods. These treatment protocols are far outside of medical treatment norms.

But, and this is my opinion and the opinion of the thousands of others who have been helped with this treatment, these doctors have done important work dealing with a terrifying disease. And as payment for this they must constantly be vigilant that Medical Associations do not try to bring them up on charges and/or suspend their licenses. Eighteen LLMD's in NY state had their licenses suspended last year. And this is only one aspect of the high controversy surrounding the treatment of the Nation's "Fastest Growing Infectious Disease."

Please understand, I don't think that everybody who has been bitten by a tick has Lyme, but I do know from personal experience that many who suffer with this disease have "fallen through the cracks" and have no idea why they are suffering or what the cause is. I share my experiences in the hope that this disease doesn't affect the day-to-day lives of others.

Lyme disease is a long haul. I have just begun my journey. I am two months into a very aggressive treatment regimen and I find that sometimes I have good days, and sometimes bad. I'm trying to do something to eradicate this disease which, unchecked and untreated, is a life destroyer. I hope that you, your family, or your friends do not have to deal with this growing problem, but if you do I want you to have at least an idea how much needs to be reformed in the recognition and the treatment of this disease. Knowledge brings change. Many voices bring change.

Info: The Lyme Disease Association, The Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern PA, The International Lyme & Associated Diseases Society, The Turn the Corner Foundation.

Law Firm Hosts Chamber

Bill Kennedy, Prudential real estate; former Central Voice srepresentative Barrie Ayars, Matt Spencer, BIZ; network the crowd.

Hosting the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for his law firm, Daley, Zucker, Meilton, Miner and Gingrich, LLC, is attorney Steve Miner here with firm attorney Linday Maclay.

Attorney Patricia Carey Zucker and attorney Sandra Meilton cavort with politically active Stephen Dorko.

Daley, Zucker, Meilton, Miner and Gingrich, LLC, Wormleysburg, recently hosted the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for its semi-annual meeting. Shown here is chamber president Russ Boggs accepting a proclamation issued by Harrisburg Mayor Steve Reed noting the group's formation from Edward L. Nielson, director, Mayor's Office of Economic Development & Special Projects.

New Staff con'td

it marks a breakthrough in secular foundation support for lgbt faith organizing efforts.

The recipients are the Task Force's Institute for Welcoming Resources, which works with the welcoming church movement in 30 Christian denominations; Integrity, which works within the Episcopal Church; Lutherans Concerned/North America, which works within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; More Light Presbyterians, which works within the Presbyterian Church (USA); Reconciling Ministries Network, which works within the United Methodist Church; and the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns.

"The more than 2.5 million individuals in the 3,100 congregations supported by the Institute for Welcoming Resources and these partner organizations are some of our movement's most valuable advocates in promoting understanding, reclaiming what unfortunately has become a narrow view of 'moral values' espoused by those who seek to divide, and advancing lgbt equality. We thank the Haas, Jr. Fund for not only recognizing this, but for providing the critical resources to advance these pro-lgbt faith organizing efforts."

Transgender Law Protected

The Task Force Action Fund reports a win before the highest court in Maryland which decided that an anti-transgender measure must be removed from the ballot in Montgomery County, Md. The court agreed with plaintiffs that the opposition effort did not collect enough valid signatures, reversing a lower court decision. The measure will not move forward as a result of this decision. The Montgomery County Council in Maryland unanimously passed that law last fall, but opponents quickly launched a signature-gathering effort to place a repeal measure on the ballot.

In March, the county Board of Elections certified those petitions, but a group of Montgomery County voters brought a lawsuit against the Board of Elections challenging its conclusion that enough valid signatures had indeed been collected.

Honor Chavez and Milk

The Task Force announced support of efforts to honor civil rights heroes César Chávez and Harvey Milk with a federal and state holiday respectively.

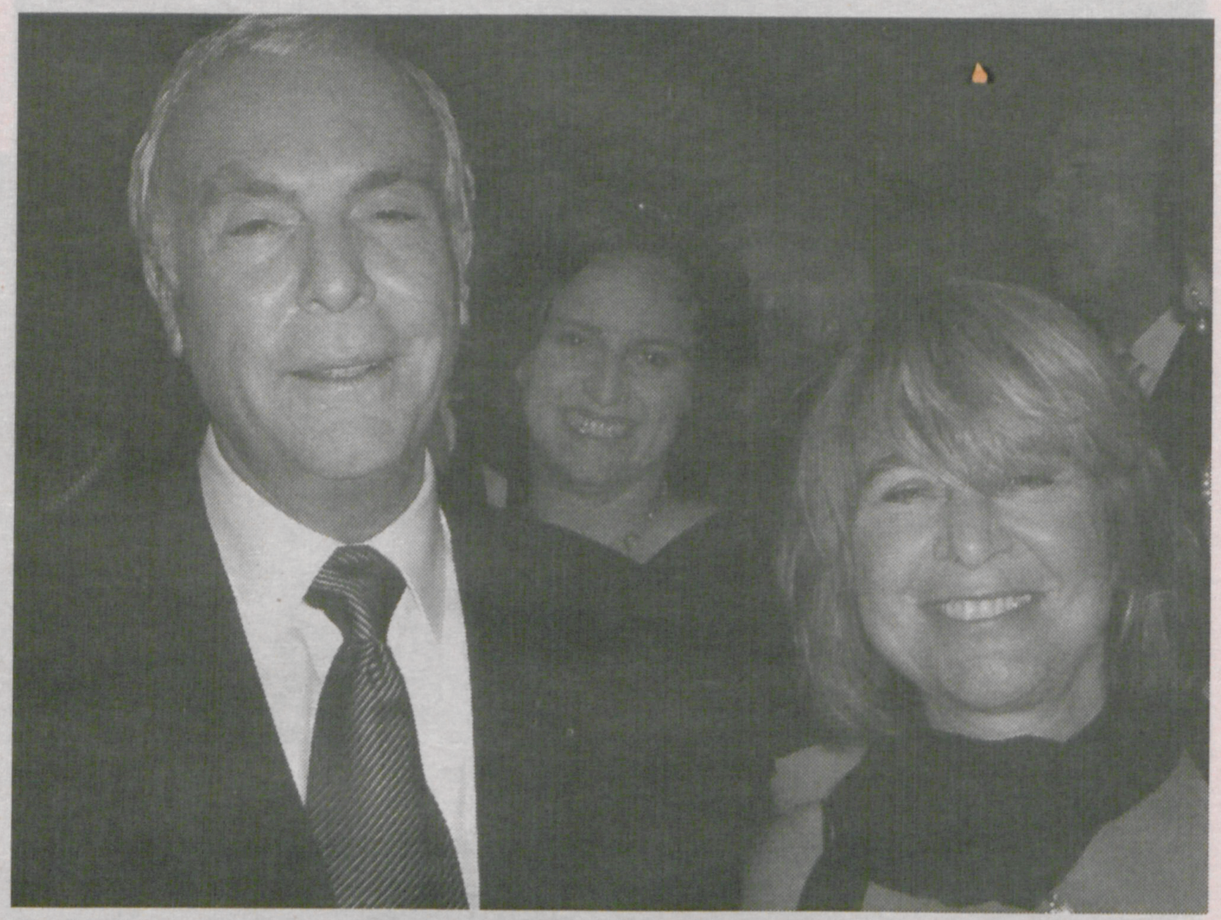
"The Task Force is proud to support and endorse these efforts to recognize two lions of social justice. Our modern movement benefits from their legacy of leadership of working across issues to not leave anyone behind," said Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey.

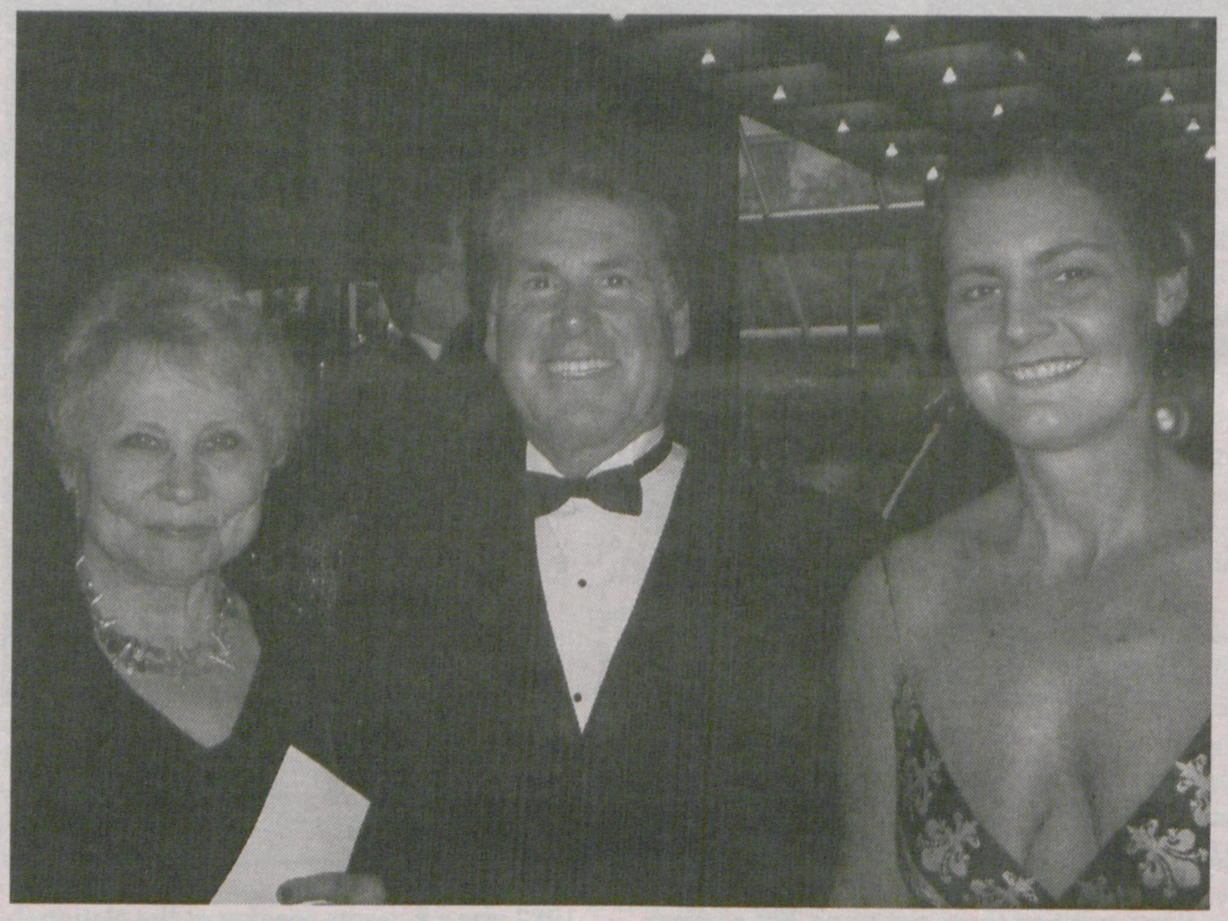
Chávez, the late founder and president of the United Farm Workers (UFW) of America, had deep confidence in the ability of people to move mountains of injustice. He was the first major civil rights leader to support gay and lesbian issues. He spoke out on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the 1970s and in 1987 was a keynote speaker at the National March on Washington.

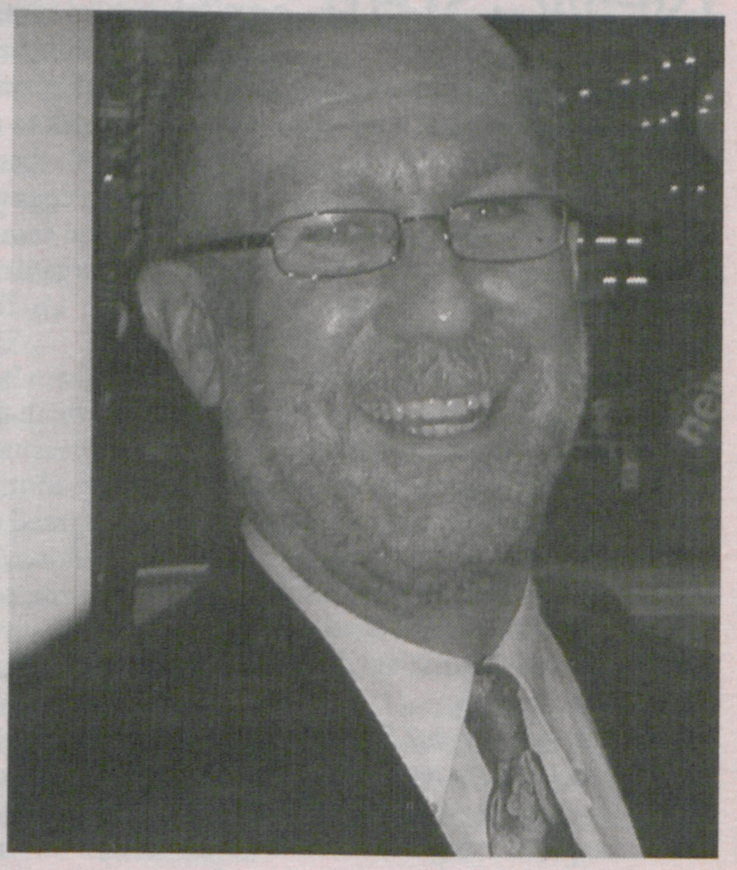
Assemblymember Mark Leno along with the support of Equality California have introduced a measure that would formally recognize Harvey Milk. Milk was born on May 22, 1930, and settled in the Castro district of San Francisco in 1972 where he and his partner opened a camera store. His belief that all people should be treated with respect paved the way of the populist movement he pioneered for LGBT rights, creating a legacy that inspires the LGBT community to this day. In 1977, Milk became the first openly gay elected official of any large city in the United States, and only the third openly gay elected official in the nation. Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in San Francisco on Nov. 27, 1978.

Milk was an early supporter of the California grape boycott organized by the UFW and led by Chávez.

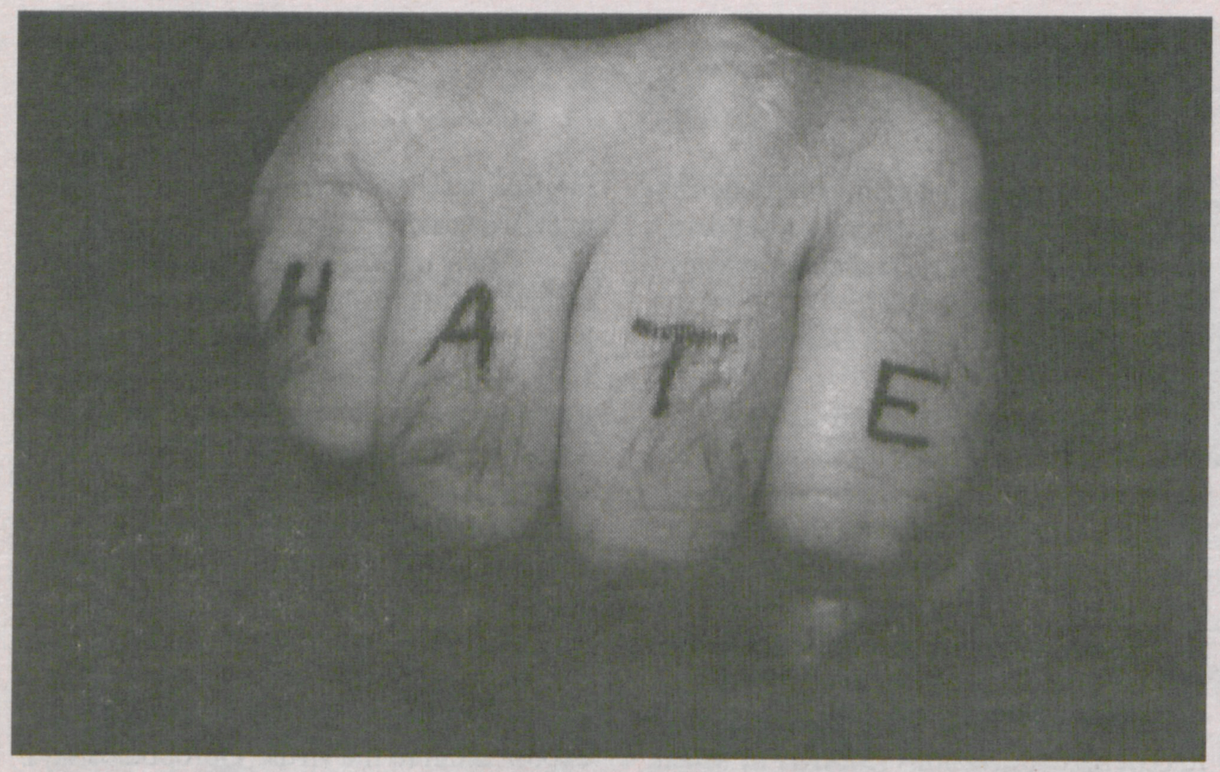
Stadnycki and CASA Honored







Theatre Harrisburg recently chose artist Robert Stadnycki (top left) and the Capital Area School for the Arts (CASA) as recipients of the 2008 Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts in the Capital Region.



Rep. Frankel Intros Hate Prevention Fund

Frankel

According to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, hatred based on sexual orientation has been increasingly evident through literature and public speeches of white supremacist-organized hate groups, along with hatred based on skin color, religion and national origin. Other targets of reported hate activity included immigrants and persons with disabilities.

Responding to the growing concern, state Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, introduced House Bill 51 creating a Prevention of Hate Activity Fund to help the state respond to and prevent discrimination and hate-motivated incidents and violence. His measure also calls for a $1 million appropriation to support the fund's mission. Among the co-sponsors are Rep. Ron Buxton, D-Harrisburg; Eugene DePasquale, D-York; and Tom Sturla, D-Lancaster.

Last September, the House Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on the bill.

According to data used to develop the legislation, in FY 1998-99, 340 incidents of hate activity and inter-group tension incidents were reported to the PHRC. One hundred fifty-eight incidents involving organized hate groups were reported to the commission that same year, an increase of 36 incidents from the previous year.

African-Americans were the sole targets in 101 (30%) of the tension incidents reported. Jews were the sole targets in 50 (18%) of the incidents. The commission also reports that hatred based on sexual orientation has been increasingly evident through the literature and public speeches of white supremacist-organized hate groups, along with hatred based on skin color, religion and national origin. Other targets of reported hate activity included immigrants and persons with disabilities.

Fifty-five percent of reported incidents involved criminal activity that included serious threat to personal safety, such as assault, terroristic threats, reckless endangerment, arson, kidnapping and attempted homicide.

Communities around the state have organized unity coalitions in an effort to prevent and combat hate activity. Locally, for example, Carlisle, has in recent years convened several "community dialogues" around the issues of diversity and hate. The commission works to respond to and prevent inter-group tension and hate activities through direct assistance to communities and community-based groups, programs to improve police-community relations, technical assistance to school districts and higher education institutions and various types of community outreach and education initiatives.

The commission's funding level does not allow it to invest sufficiently in combating hate crimes and tension incidents, making the $1 million appropriation necessary. If passed, the funds will allow the commission to enhance its efforts to combat inter-group tensions.

Activities may include direct assistance to communities and community-based groups, training initiatives for law enforcement personnel, technical assistance to school districts and higher education institutions, outreach and informational activities directed to local governments, civic organizations, trade associations and other groups.

Change of Seasons Can Affect Mood

"Patterns are important when we think about how the changing seasons may influence how we feel about ourselves," says Dr. Rajni Lad, medical director, Community Behavioral HealthCare Network of Pennsylvania, headquartered in Harrisburg.

He's talking about Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD. Just like the change of seasons is a pattern, our reactions to the changes in light associated with seasonal change may also form patterns, some of them allowing for depression.

Why seasonal affective disorders occur is not well understood. Researchers believe decreasing daylight available in fall and winter triggers a depressive episode in people predisposed to develop the disorder. However, no studies have established a causal relationship between decreasing daylight and the development of winter SAD.

Nonetheless, research says depressive episodes are a primary public health problem and one of the most common psychiatric conditions seen in clinical practice, according to the Archives of General Psychiatry.

"Patients don't often connect the dots," Dr. Lad says. He may notice a pattern of winter blues in regular patients and begin asking questions to see if seasonal changes in light are presenting a challenge. If a diagnosis of depression already exists – manic depression or bipolar disorders, for example – he may probe a bit deeper to determine if seasonal change is making an existing condition worse.

In general, about 10 to 40 percent of patients in the primary care setting of a family doctor have significant depressive symptoms, although less than one-half meet the criteria for major depressive disorder, medical literature notes.

Two seasonal patterns of SAD are acknowledged: the fall-onset SAD and the summer-onset SAD. The fall-onset type, also known as "winter depression," is most recognized. In this type of seasonal disorder, major depressive episodes begin in late fall to early winter and lessen during summer months. Although less documented in the literature, a spring-onset pattern has also been documented.

Professional literature says that SAD is more prevalent at higher northern latitudes, although the net effect of latitude is probably small. People who migrate to higher latitudes may be more susceptible to developing SAD.

A milder form of SAD, a sub syndrome, has also been reported and may be more prevalent than SAD. In one telephone survey conducted in Montgomery County, Maryland, 4 to 6 percent of those surveyed experienced fall-onset SAD, and another 10 to 20 percent had sub syndrome features.

Nearly all clinical studies report a higher incidence of winter SAD in women says Lancet medical journal. However, the true sex ratio may be distorted by selection bias. One study that employed fairly strict criteria for diagnosis found that SAD with major depressive episodes was more common in men, while women more commonly experienced seasonal minor depression.

Some data suggest that the average age of onset of SAD is approximately 23 years and that risk decreases with age. Cases of childhood SAD have also been reported.

Prevalence studies of SAD and non-seasonal mood disorders among relatives of SAD sufferers and in twin studies suggest a familial contribution to its development. However, it is not known whether SAD is a heritable disorder.

Here's what to watch for regarding fall-onset SAD:

- Increased rather than decreased sleep
- Increased rather than decreased appetite with carbohydrate craving
- Marked increase in weight
- Irritability
- Interpersonal difficulties (especially rejection sensitivity)
- Leaden paralysis (heavy, leaden feelings in arms or legs)

In contrast, spring-onset SAD is characterized by weight loss, decreased sleep, and poor appetite.

If you or a family member is affected by SAD, always consult a doctor. Clinical literature does note that "light therapy" is uniquely effective for fall-onset SAD, although all available treatment options should be considered when planning treatment and there are a full set of circumstances to consider when a doctor recommends light therapy.

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